

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 347
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Commissioner James Neeley upon his receipt of the distinguished service award from the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those outstanding individuals, who through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as exemplary leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Commissioner James Neeley of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, who was recently recognized by the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education with a distinguished service award for his lifelong dedication to workforce development, labor, and education; and

WHEREAS, working actively for many years to improve job opportunities for all Tennesseans, Commissioner Neeley served as a member of the executive committee for Education Edge and was instrumental in securing a \$30 million National School-to-Work Opportunities grant for Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in his capacity as Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, James Neeley has awarded more than 50 companies close to \$1.5 million in incumbent Worker Training grants to upgrade skills and training opportunities for their employees, in addition to being a vocal advocate for the development of partnerships across public and private agencies to provide more opportunities for workers and students in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neeley has served as Chair of the Tennessee Council on Vocation Education for a number of years, during which time the Council has become involved in

Secondary and Post-Secondary Vocational Education through support and involvement in curriculum development, industry, and other public sector participation in Vocational Education; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium, founded in 1920, annually recognizes outstanding individuals across the nation who have worked tirelessly to improve programs for and access to career education; and

WHEREAS, the Association's selection of Commissioner Neeley is most appropriate because of his longtime commitment to career and technical education programs and projects at the local, state and national levels where he is a strong voice and highly respected leader; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner James Neeley epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Commissioner Neeley for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Commissioner James Neeley for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and offer our heartiest congratulations on his receipt of the distinguished service award for lifelong dedication for workforce development, labor, and education from the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.